

West Newton Aug. 23/79

Dear Mr. Garrison,

I am glad to
send the letters of your
Father. The one relating
to Churches for Colored
people was printed in
our Newton Journal &
is hanging in my library
in a frame. That I have
had carefully copied to
^{in which you need not return}
send, though will send
the original if you wish
the frame is so construct-
ed that the letter cannot
be taken from it without

breaking the frame,

We shall highly prize
the Memorial Volume you
so kindly promise. It
will find the beautiful
Memorial Volume to your
noble Mother which your
Father presented to me.

Mother & Wife unite
in kind regards to you
Very truly yours,
Nathl. T. Allen.

(You wish to get my views)

WEST NEWTON ENGLISH & CLASSICAL SCHOOL (31)
Copy of letter from
Wm. Lloyd Garrison to Wm. F. Allen
Copied by Frank E. Johnson

West Newton, Aug 23 1879.

Roxbury, Dec. 8th 1874.

Dear Mr. Allen:

I was much gratified to receive a letter from you, some weeks ago, enclosing an article from your pen printed in the Newton Journal, expressing in fraternal but earnest words your regret that a church has just been organized by the colored residents in your village, "on the single basis of color," when they are no longer obliged by complexional proscription to be separated in matters of religious worship from their white fellow-citizens.

My apology for not sending you a reply at the time must be ill health, which indeed has obliged me, almost wholly, to abstain from epistolary correspondence for the past six months.

You wish to get my views upon the general principle. Of these I feel sure you can entertain no doubt. They are in exact accordance with those so forcibly expressed by yourself in the article referred to; and I heartily thank you for making so timely a testimony in so clear and lucid a manner. Coming from you as the tried friend of the colored race, it deserves their special consideration; for you not only "fought the good fight" with the monster Slavery until its destruction was assured, but in your

daily life and as a public educator have long since put beneath your feet that spirit of complexional caste which is its baneful product, and utterly at variance with the claims of human brotherhood.

In your letter you say - "Of course, we must expect that the colored like other people will have their own social circles; but is it not their duty to endeavor to mingle in our schools and churches with whites? Is it not best for them and their children, on the whole?"

These questions I answer strongly in the affirmative. To this end, with the emancipation and enfranchisement of the millions, once held in the Southern house of bondage, I have raised my voice and exerted what influence I could for the last forty-five years, and I am now too old and too firmly settled in conviction to take any step backward.

The case is a very plain one. Whenever or wherever colored persons are excluded by law or usage from those rights and privileges which are enjoyed by all other classes, - whether relating to religious worship, secular education, or anything else, - the only alternative left to them is to act together "on the single basis of color," it being not a case of self-exclusion, but a necessity arising from an inexorable proscription. But when, or where no such exclusion is enforced, and a disposition is shown to treat them with fairness and respect, then for them to withdraw from a common fellowship and erect complexional barriers is to establish a precedent which logically ends in

endorsing the old pro-slavery doctrine, that there should be no fraternization between the two races, on account of color.

Your statement, that you "have not learned that a single white person has urged, or recommended this movement," is most creditable to the citizens of West Newton; and your other statement, that much credit is to be accorded to the colored residents "for general industry, thrift, intelligence, and a laudable ambition to improve and elevate themselves in every way," is particularly gratifying.

Yours for the overthrow
of all unnatural distinctions,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Nathaniel D. Allen, Esq.

The above has been carefully read
& compared with the original & found correct
in every word N. T. Allen.

The above is a copy of the
original manuscript of the
first part of the book.